

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**APRIL 27, 2015**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2015-0200**  
**2208 E. 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1911 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a clipped gables at the front and sides; partial-width inset porch on brick piers; single a, double, and triple 1:1 fenestration. It appears like the house may have had a new roofline in the 1920s – clipped gables were not in fashion at the time the house was built in 1911, and the house was listed as vacant in the 1920 city directory, perhaps because of the possible construction.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1911; the first occupants were Frank and Cora Tarver, who lived here until around 1913. Frank Tarver was a carpenter. Henry W. Walker, a contractor, is listed as the occupant of the house in the 1914 city directory; the house was then apparently rented to Benjamin and Nell Graham until around 1919. From around 1923 to around 1936, the house was owned and occupied by James and Rose Gilbert. James Gilbert worked for the City Sanitation Department.

Ira and Mattie Coleman owned and occupied the house from around 1936 until around 1970. Ira Coleman was a porter for Carl Mayer, a jeweler on Congress Avenue. Mattie's mother and sister also lived with the Colemans in the mid-1940s. Ira Coleman was in the military, and in 1945, he and Mattie were living in Galveston; when he returned, he became an agent for the Excelsior Life Insurance Company with offices on Rosewood Avenue. He is then listed as a porter for Carl Mayer, until he died in 1959. Mattie Coleman continued to live in the house until around 1970. It has been a rental unit since that time.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is listed as a high priority for preservation in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey (2001).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Postpone to May 18, 2015 to fully evaluate alternatives to demolition. The house has a long history with African-American families in the neighborhood, and is one of the larger houses with a distinctive style.

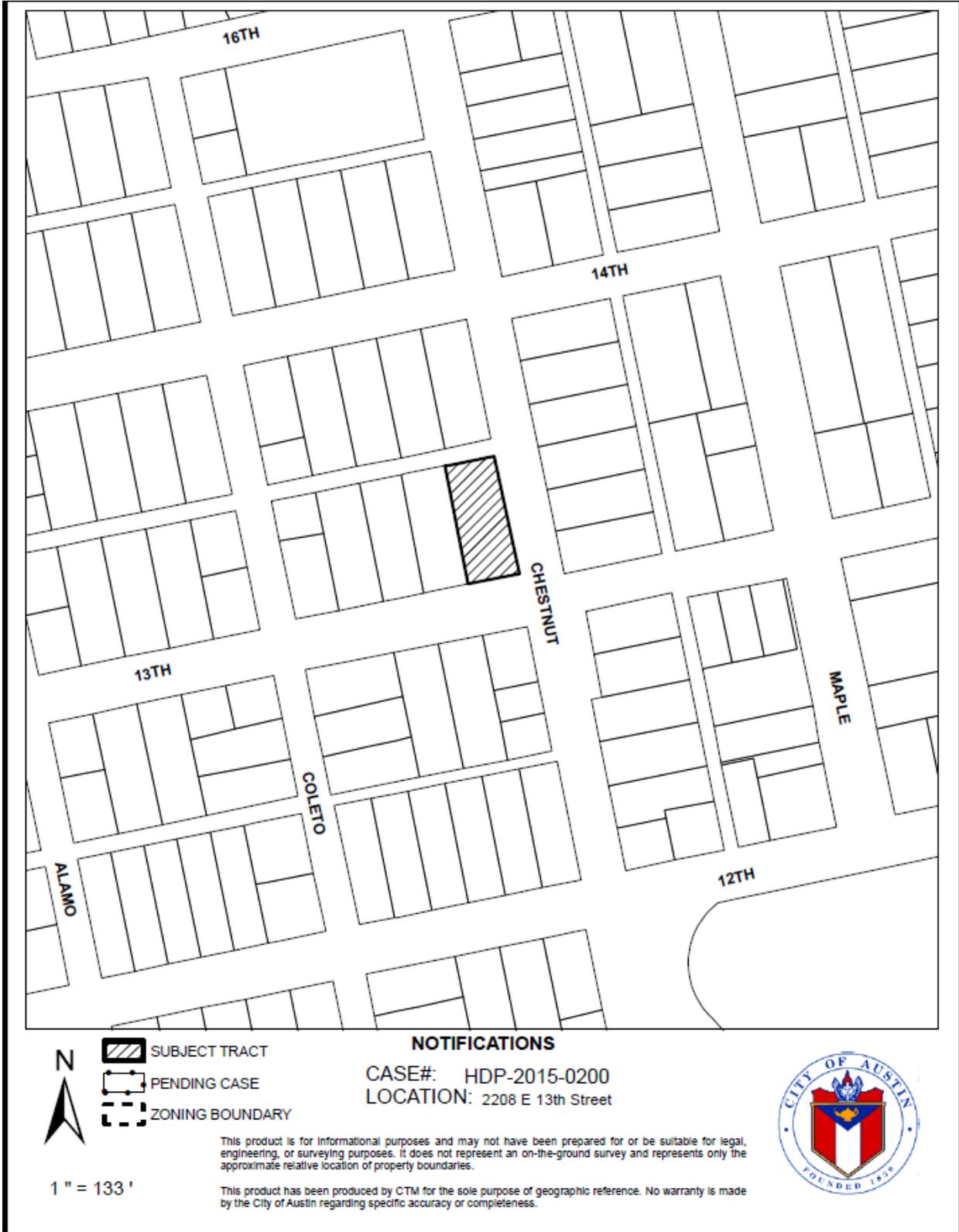
Hi Steve,

I just heard back from the owner on East 13th St. He has asked me to request for the demo permit be pulled. They are planning to just renovate the house instead.

Sincerely,

Kevin Woodworth

LOCATION MAP



2208 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1911



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2208 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
April, 2015

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1992    | L.C. Ducre, renter<br>No occupation listed  |
| 1985-86 | Vacant  |
| 1981    | Ann M. Traylor, owner<br>Retired  |
| 1977    | Betty Traylor, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: Anne Traylor is listed as the proprietor of Traylor Properties, 3007 N. Lamar Boulevard; she had no address listed in the directory. |
| 1973    | Dorothy Pickens, renter<br>Employed at the Sheraton Crest Hotel, 111 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street.<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Dorothy Pickens was a new resident at this address.   |
| 1968    | Mattie L. Coleman, owner<br>Widow, Ira Coleman  |

Retired

1962 Mattie L. Coleman, owner  
Widow, Ira Coleman  
No occupation listed

1959 Ira and Mattie L. Coleman, owners  
No occupation listed

1955 Ira and Mattie L. Coleman, owners  
Porter

1952 Ira and Mattie L. Coleman, owners  
Porter, Carl Mayer Company, jewelers and silversmiths, 817 Congress Avenue.

1949 Ira and Mattie L. Coleman, owners  
Porter

1947 Ira and Mattie L. Coleman, owners  
Agent, Excelsior Life Insurance Company, 1206 Rosewood Avenue.  
Also listed is Annie Harrison, no occupation shown.

1944-45 Annie Harrison, renter  
No occupation listed

Tom and Berta L. Nobles, renters  
No occupation listed

Henry and Katie Strong, renters  
Laborer, C.A. Maufrais, cement contractors, 108 Barton Springs Road.  
NOTE: Ira and Mattie L. Coleman are listed in the Galveston city directory for 1945; he had no occupation listed.

1941 Ira and Mattie Coleman, owners  
Porter, Carl Mayer Company, jeweler, 817 Congress Avenue.  
Also listed is Annie Harrison, no occupation shown.

1939 Ira and Mattie Coleman, owners  
Porter

1937 Ira and Mattie Coleman, owners  
Porter, Carl Mayer Company, jewelers and silversmiths, 618 Congress Avenue.  
Also listed is Harry Coleman, a janitor.

1935 James and Alberta Gilbert, owners  
Sweeper, City Trash and Garbage Department.  
NOTE: Ira and Mattie Coleman are listed at 1615 E. 9½ Street; he was a porter for Carl Mayer, jewelers and silversmiths, 618 Congress Avenue.

1932-33 James and Rosa Gilbert, owners  
Laborer, City Sanitation Department

1930-31 James and Rose Gilbert (colored), owners  
Sweeper, City Street Department

- 1929 James and Rose Gilbert (colored), owners  
Sweeper, City Street Department
- 1927 James and Rosa Gilbert (colored), owners  
Helper, City Sanitary Department
- 1924 James and Rosie Gilbert (colored), owners  
No occupation listed
- 1922 Frank and Bessie Allen (colored), renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: James and Rosa Gilbert are listed at 2004 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street; he had no occupation shown.
- 1920 Vacant
- 1918 Benjamin and Nell Graham (colored), renters  
Yardman
- 1916 Bennie Graham (colored)  
Laborer, University of Texas  
NOTE: The alphabetical section of the directory shows Bennie Graham living at 2105 East Avenue.
- 1914 Henry W. Walker (colored)  
Contractor (office at the house)
- 1912-13 Frank W. Tarver (colored)  
Carpenter
- 1910-11 Frank W. Tarver (colored)  
Carpenter
- 1909-10 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Frank Tarver was a carpenter living at 2206 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:****Frank and Cora Tarver (ca. 1911 – ca. 1913)**

Frank and Cora Tarver appear at 2206 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in the 1910 U.S. Census. Frank Tarver was 38, had been born in Texas to Tennessee-born parents, and was a house contractor. Cora Tarver was 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Thomas, 4 months.

**James and Rosa Gilbert (ca. 1923 – ca. 1936)**

Jim and Rosa Gilbert appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 2004 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Jim Gilbert was 44, had been born in Texas, and did sanitary work for the City. Rosa Gilbert was 39, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 “lodgers,” all children, one of whom is listed as his “adopted son” in the 1930 census.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Jim Gilbert as a 50-year old divorced man, and the owner of this house, which was worth \$800. He was a laborer doing odd jobs. He had 2 female lodgers, one of whom was a cook in a fraternity house. In addition, he had an adopted son, Boyd McNeil, 18, who had no occupation listed.

There is no known record of James Gilbert's death in Texas; he is not buried in a city cemetery.

**Ira and Mattie Coleman (ca. 1936 – ca. 1970)**

Ira and Mattie Coleman appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,000. Ira Coleman was 44, had been born in Texas, and was a porter in a retail jewelry store. Mattie Coleman was 47, had been born in Texas, and was a cook for a private family.. With them lived Mattie Coleman's mother, Annie Harrison, a 70-year old widow who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed; and Mattie's sister, Amy Belle Harrison, 27, who had been born in Texas, and was a school teacher.

**IRA COLEMAN**  
 Funeral services for Ira Coleman, 61, who died Thursday, will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church with the Rev. Robert L. Rowe, officiating. He was a veteran of World War I. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Phillips and Upshaw Funeral Home.  
 He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mattie Coleman; one daughter, Helen Louise Coleman; four aunts, Mrs. Carolyn Allen, and Miss Jennie Coleman of Austin, Mrs. Ellen Horn, Washington, D. C. and Mrs. Tellie Earls, Round Rock, four uncles, John Coleman and Jones Blackburn of Austin, Harry Coleman, Corpus Christi and Walter Coleman, Dallas.

Obituary of Ira Coleman  
 Austin Statesman, December 19, 1959

**COLEMAN, Mattie, 96, of Austin died Tuesday. Services 2 p.m. Friday at Peaceful St. James Baptist. Burial Evergreen Cemetery. (Fuller-Sheffield)**

Death notice for Mattie Coleman  
 Austin American-Statesman, October 2, 1986